

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 478

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0726

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, PINS DJ SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GOULED APPEALS FOR MILITARY TRANSPORTATION

REF: DJIBOUTI 564, DJIBOUTI 673 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT CALLED IN CHARGE TODAY 14 DECEMBER TO ASK FOR INTERVENTI
ON

SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO SECURE MILITARY TRANSPORT VEHICLES FOR DJIBOUTI'S
FLEDGLING ARMY. CITING RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS AT TADJOURA AND YAB
OKI,

DJIBOUTI'S PRESIDENT NOTED THAT ON EACH OCCASION, HE WAS REQUIRED TO
CALL UPON FRENCH MILITARY FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. PRESIDENT GOULED
STATES THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN RELATIVELY FREELY, BUT THAT IT
NEVERTHELESS DID NOT FALL UNDER THE GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY OF
FRENCH PER THEIR MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH DJIBOUTI. THE PRESIDENT
ALSO

NOTED THAT IF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS HAD EXISTED BETWEEN YABOKI AND B
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GALAFI, WHERE DJIBOUTI BORDER TROOPS FIRED ON SCHOOL TEACHER AND HIS
CAPTORS, KILLING THE TEACHER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR YABOKI
TO

CALL AHEAD TO AVOID SUCH PRECIPITOUS ACTION.

2. BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT IS AWARE OF THE COMPLICATIONS IN
SECURING MILITARY-RELATED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND IN THE INTEREST
OF TIME, HE ASKED IF WE COULD PREVAIL UPON SAUDI AUTHORITIES TO GRANT

DJIBOUTI SUFFICIENT VEHICLES (LONG-FRAME LANDROVERS PREFERRED) TO PROVIDE

BASIC TRANSPORT NEEDS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE.

3. THE PRESIDENT NOTED NEED FOR 400 SUCH VEHICLES, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT THE COUNTRY'S PLANNED TROOP STRENGTH OF 3600 COULD GET ALONG WITH MUCH LESS THAN THAT. THIS POST UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OUR RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ARE SUCH THAT WE COULD MAKE SUCH A SUGGESTION TO THEM. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE PRESUMED INTEREST OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT

IN STABILIZING THIS REGION, IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN THEIR INTEREST TO ACCORD SOME DIRECT ASSISTANCE IN THIS RATHER BASIC DOMAIN. THIS EMBASSY ALSO UNABLE TO GUESS WHY THIS REQUEST MADE THROUGH US

RATHER THAN LOCAL SAUDI EMBASSY OTHER THAN FACT SAUDI CHARGE NOT TOO SWIFT IN MOST AREAS.

4. THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY JIDDA ARE REQUESTED TO LOOK INTO MATTER ON PRIORITY BASIS AND GIVE US SOME GUIDANCE. CLARKE

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